

ARTICLE IV. NATIONALLY COMPETITIVELY BID EVENTS

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Sec. 25-152. Applicability.

The provisions of this article shall be applicable during a national bid event period.

Sec. 25-153. Safety zones for nationally competitively bid events.

During a national bid event period, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect or cause to be erected or to use or cause to be used any tent within the safety zones other than those sanctioned and authorized by the city and the event producing entity.

Sec. 25-154. Activating a safety zone.

(a) In consultation with the affected directors, the mayor is authorized to activate one or more safety zones, or a portion thereof, in the vicinity of venues utilized for the nationally competitively bid event or of necessary hotel accommodations for the nationally competitively bid event.

(b) When consulting with the mayor regarding activation of a safety zone, the directors shall take into consideration the nature of the event, the numbers of persons and vehicles expected, the street and highway configurations, the condition of and traffic flows expected on the streets, highways, and sidewalks, the location of police and fire stations, hospitals, and other critical facilities, security plans for the event, and other relevant factors.

The MOSE director shall cause the information described in section 25-157(e) of this Code to be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least one time before the national bid event period commences and shall post the notice on the same bulletin board used for open meetings notices.

Sec. 25-155. Temporary taxicab rates for nationally competitively bid events.

(a) During the national bid event period temporary taxicab zones and the rates therefor shall be established using a methodology similar to that utilized to establish IAH and HOU airport flat rates described in section 46-31 of this Code.

(b) Temporary taxicab rates shall be established not more than six months prior to the beginning of the national bid event period and not less than one month before the beginning of the national bid event period.

(c) During the national bid event period, the zone taxicab rates established for certain taxicab trips within, to, and from the designated temporary taxicab zones established above shall be in effect. The affected zones and rates shall be maintained on file in the office of the city secretary and on the ARA website. They shall also be made available for inspection upon request at the office of the city secretary during normal business hours.

(d) Any applicable discount that is provided in section 46-31 of this Code shall be applied to the fare referenced in subsection (c) of this section. The provisions of this section do

not excuse the operation of the taxicab's taximeter. For travel governed by this section, the fare shall be the lesser of the meter amount, less any applicable discounts, or the amount specified in this section, less any applicable discounts.

(e) Violation of this section is unlawful, and violations shall be punishable as provided in section 1-6 of this Code.

(f) Temporary signage shall be displayed in the taxicab during the national bid event period informing the customer of the temporary zone rates in effect.

Sec. 25-156. Temporary taxicab and limousine licenses.

~~_____ (a) Prior to the commencement of the national bid event period, limousine and charter/sightseeing vehicles with mileage in excess of 100,000 miles may be permitted on a temporary basis provided that the applicant provides proof that the vehicle is currently permitted as a vehicle for hire by another governmental entity and meets all other applicable permitting requirements in Chapter 46 of this Code.~~

~~_____ (b) Temporary limousine and charter/sightseeing vehicle permits issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall only be valid during the national bid event period.~~

During a national bid event period, the director of administration and regulatory affairs is authorized to issue temporary taxicab and limousine driver licenses for the same fee as described for taxicab and limousine driver licenses in chapter 46 of this Code. In order to expedite processing temporary taxicab and limousine driver license applications, the director may waive licensing requirements articulated in chapter 46 of this Code, with the exception of those related to fingerprinting, which shall remain mandatory, provided the director, in the exercise of her reasonable discretion, determines the waived licensing requirements do not pose a significant threat to the public health and safety. The temporary taxicab and limousine driver licenses shall be valid only for taxicab and limousine vehicles operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of chapter 46 of this Code and only during the national bid event period. This section shall not be construed to excuse compliance with any other provision of chapter 46 of this Code.

Sec. 25-156.1. Joint ground transportation airport use permits.

During a national bid event period, the director of administration and regulatory affairs, in cooperation with the director of the Houston airport system, is authorized to issue joint temporary ground transportation airport use permits that will be valid only during the national bid event period. The permits shall be issued in a manner that is, to the extent practicable, consistent with the requirements of chapter 46 and chapter 9 of this Code, upon payment to the director of administration and regulatory affairs of the fee stated in the city fee schedule.

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